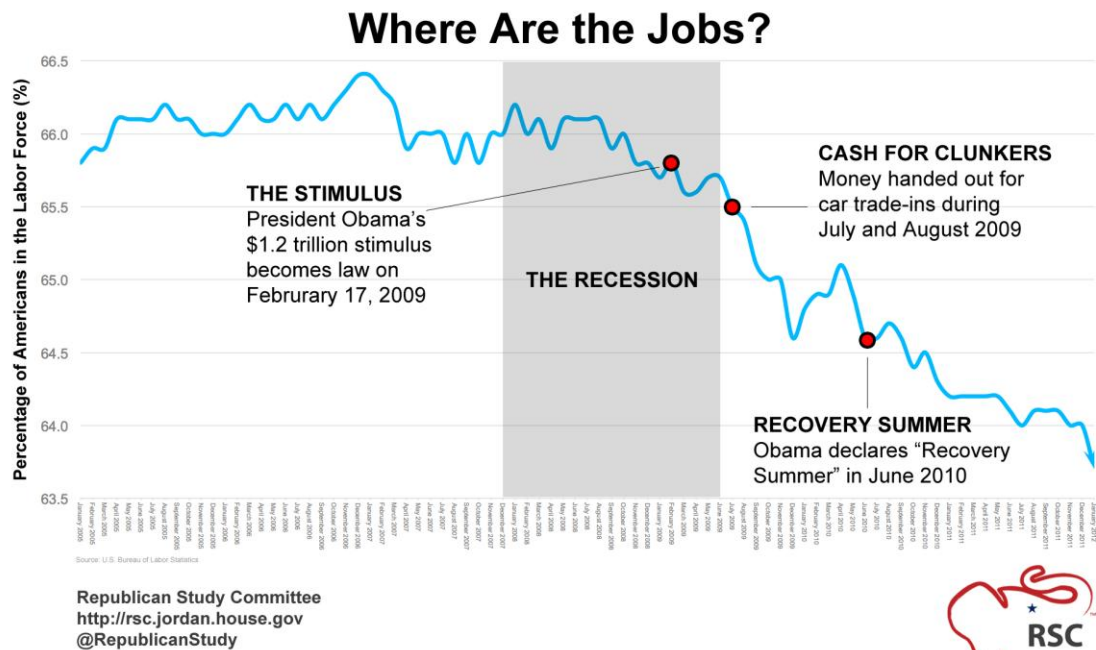


*Tuesday, February 21, 2012*

## RSC Update: The Stimulus Chart Obama Doesn't Want You to See

### From the Chairman

Believe it or not, the stimulus turned 3 years old last week. In exchange for \$1.2 trillion (including interest), liberals said their plan would reduce unemployment to about 6% today. It hasn't fallen below 8% at any point in the last 36 months. And as more and more people are becoming aware, the official unemployment rate actually excludes unemployed people who have not looked for work in the last month.



The above chart presents another view of the economy, using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The "labor force participation rate" represents the share of working-age Americans who are currently in the workforce – employed full-time, part-time, or unemployed but actively looking for work.

At just 63.7%, labor force participation has not been this low in 29 years! To put it another way, more than one-third of working-age Americans do not have a job and are not even looking. (Watch Megyn Kelly and Lou Dobbs discuss our chart [here](#).)

We're told the recession officially ended in 2009. But for far too many people, the recession never really ended at all. That's why conservatives in the Republican Study Committee are getting behind H.R. 3400, the [Jobs Through Growth Act](#). It ramps up energy production. It fights back against regulation-gone-wild. And it allows you to throw out the old tax code for one that's simpler, flatter, and fairer.

The past three years have made clear what doesn't work. Let's go with what does.

God Bless,

Congressman Jim Jordan  
Chairman, Republican Study Committee

**RSC Media Activity – RSC members work hard to ensure that the conservative viewpoint is well-represented in all corners of the media. Visit our [Media Center](#) for more.**

- Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-05): [ObamaCare "Compromise" Confuses the Issue](#); The Denver Post, February 13.
- Rep. Jeb Hensarling (TX-05): [Dodd-Frank Act a Confidence Killer](#); Politico, February 13.
- Rep. Eric Cantor (VA-07): [U.S. Should Take Tough Stance on Iran, Syria](#); CNN, February 13.
- Rep. Francisco "Quico" Canseco (TX-23): [A Missed Opportunity to Lead](#); The Hill, February 14.
- Rep. Bobby Schilling (IL-17): [Our Economy Deserves Dynamic Solutions](#); The Hill, February 14.
- Rep. Kevin Yoder (KS-03): [Washington Has Thrown in the Towel](#); The Hill, February 14.
- Rep. Diane Black (TN-06) and Rep. Tim Griffin (AR-02): [Obama's Irresponsible Budget](#); Politico, February 15.
- Rep. Ed Royce (CA-40): [Obama's Budget Blunder](#); FlashReport, February 15.
- Rep. Tom Price (GA-06): [President Obviously Doesn't Grasp the Seriousness of Fiscal Situation](#); The Hill, February 15.
- Rep. Lamar Smith (TX-21): [Obama's Lax Visa Policy Imperils U.S.](#); Politico, February 16.
- Rep. Jason Chaffetz (UT-03): [President's Plan for Entitlement Spending Misses Mark](#); The Hill, February 16.
- Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05): [EPA Needs More Time to Reconsider Boiler MACT Rules](#); RedState, February 17.
- Rep. Peter Roskam (IL-06) with Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA-22): [The Ultimate Broken Promise](#); National Review Online, February 17.

- Rep. James Lankford (OK-05): [The Real Story Behind the President's Budget](#); The Edmond Sun, February 17.
- Rep. Paul Ryan (WI-01) with Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL): [President Obama's Gimmicky Budget Would Commit the U.S. to Decline](#); The Washington Post, February 17.
- Rep. Todd Young (IN-09): [A Delusional Budget](#); Human Events, February 18.

### **RSC Member Activity – RSC members make it a priority to introduce productive, conservative solutions for America's future.**

- Representative Sam Graves and Representative Allen West introduced [H.R. 4081](#), the Contractor Opportunity Protection Act (COP) of 2012. This legislation would help protect small business contractors by addressing unfair contract bundling.
- Representative Chuck Fleischmann introduced [H.R. 4060](#), the Freeze Government Spending Act of 2012, which would save at least \$856 billion by freezing discretionary spending until 2021.

### **House Floor Activity – The following key legislation came through the House of Representatives recently.**

- On February 16, the House approved [H.R. 3408](#), the Protecting Investment in Oil Shale the Next Generation of Environmental, Energy, and Resource Security (PIONEERS) Act. The bill would push forward the development of oil shale which began with the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- On February 17, the House approved the Conference Report to [H.R. 3630](#), the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011. It extends the current payroll tax rates for the remainder of calendar year 2012, prevents a reduction in Medicare reimbursement rates, and reduces the maximum duration of unemployment payments to 73 weeks.

### **Outlook – A quick look at what's on the horizon.**

- President George Washington's Birthday is February 22.
- This week, the House is not in session as Members head back home for a Constituent Work Week.

### **RSC Reports**

- Each week the House is in session, the RSC Budget and Spending Taskforce compiles a [weekly report](#) on the latest budget and spending news. Additionally, the [RSC Money Monitor](#) tracks how bills passed by the House affect authorizations, mandatory spending, and federal government revenue.
- RSC Staff compiled a Policy Brief detailing the [President's FY 2013 Budget](#).

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